

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 7, 10, 12-21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6 and 24 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

1. (Previously presented) A method for screening for compounds secreted by a microorganism, comprising:

- (a) cultivating the microorganism to produce a supernatant or a supernatant including surface bound compounds of the microorganism which comprises at least 2 secreted products,
- (b) preparing a mixture of antibodies by immunizing an animal with the supernatant comprising at least 2 secreted products and isolating the mixture of antibodies formed in the animal,
- (c) providing a gene library from the microorganism,
- (d) cloning the gene library into a suitable host organism,
- (e) screening the clones of the host organism using the isolated antibody mixture to identify positive clones expressing a cloned gene encoding a secreted compound, and
- (f) screening positive clones for peptides or proteins having a desired function or subjecting positive clones to nucleotide sequencing in order to identify genes encoding compounds of interest.

2. (Original.) The method of claim 1, wherein the secreted compound is selected from the group consisting of enzymes, other proteins and peptides.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein positive clones are isolated and subjected to at least one additional screening step.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein positive clones are subjected to at least one additional screening comprising cultivating said positive clones and assaying them in a second immunoassay using the same antibodies as used in the first immunoassay to eliminate possible false positives.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising cultivating positive clones to obtain a supernatant and using the supernatant as a starting material for additional screening

steps.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two secreted products ~~is an~~
comprises an enzyme, and wherein ~~at least one the~~ enzyme produced by a positive clone is
isolated and tested in a functional assay for desired enzymatic activity.

7. (Canceled.)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of subjecting a
secreted compound from a positive clone to an assay in which a desired functionality is tested
for to identify clones that produce a compound exhibiting the desired functionality.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the desired functionality is selected
from wash performance, thermal stability, substrate specificity, catalytic turnover, oxidation
stability, sensitivity to inhibitors, pH optimum, detergent stability, stability against microbial
inactivation, toxicology, distribution profile in the human or animal body, metabolisation
products, side effects, rate of metabolisation or secretion, receptor binding capacity, and
antimicrobial capacity.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) includes a step of mutating a
nucleotide sequence of the library.

12-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the supernatant comprises at least
2 secreted compounds.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the supernatant comprises
compounds bound or associated to cell membranes of the microorganism.

24. (Currently amended) A method for screening for compounds secreted by ~~an a~~

microorganism, comprising:

- (a) cultivating the microorganism to produce a supernatant or a supernatant including surface bound compounds of the organism which comprises at least 2 secreted products,
- (b) raising antibodies against all compounds in the supernatant or the supernatant including surface bound compounds,
- (c) providing a gene library from the organism,
- (d) cloning the gene library into a suitable host organism,
- (e) screening the clones of the host organism using the isolated antibody mixture to identify positive clones expressing a cloned gene encoding a secreted compound, and
- (f) screening positive clones for peptides or proteins having a desired function or subjecting positive clones to nucleotide sequencing in order to identify genes encoding compounds of interest.